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General News | 4 November 2006 00:00 CET

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## WHY I KILLED 'YEYE BOY'-Rawlings Confesses

By Daily Guide

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Several years after the series of bloodletting, atrocities and disappearances that characterised Jerry John Rawlings' military juntas, some of the motives behind the sinister acts are beginning to unfold, this time from the horse's own mouth.

The leader of the bloodiest regime in Ghana's history, Flt. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings, claimed that his main reason for ordering the execution of Torgbui Akakpovi Ahiaku, popularly called, Yeye Boy of Atidzive, near Abor in the Volta Region, as well as other traditionalists, was to demonstrate to their people that juju does

not pay.

The former President and founder of the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC), after nearly three decades of silence, was virtually compelled to blow off the lid at a press conference in his Ridge residence last week Thursday.

With no sense of remorse whatsoever, Mr Rawlings, an apostle of fetishism, boastfully said Yeye Boy in particular, was "killed to send a strong message to fetish priests that juju was a sham."

According to Mr. Rawlings, the execution of the jujumen, who were suspects of ritual murder in their communities, was to let the people know that there was no salvation in juju.

At the conference, a female TV Africa reporter had wanted to know whether the country, and therefore the citizenry, was any safer now, than in the revolutionary days.

Obviously not satisfied with the responses from Victor Gbeho and other spokespersons like Dr Benjamin Kumbur, the unrelenting lady reporter insisted on a specific answer to her question, which prompted the former president to tell the world, the 'hidden truth'.

Rawlings said, "Talking about the lady's question on safety, we talked of the murder of the judges and the punitive action that was taken, and I also talked about my brother's son....

When people commit ritual murders and we catch up with them and the chiefs and timber merchants, and we execute them right in their villages for people to think that juju has not saved them, then we are violent people?" he asked.

Yeye Boy, the fetish priest of Atidzive, near Abor in the Volta Region, was abducted from his home by armed soldiers in 1982 and bundled into a waiting military vehicle.

That was the last time his relatives saw, or heard of him.

A few days after his abduction from Atidzive, his charred, mutilated body was discovered in a bush along the Accra-Ho road.

He was not tried in any court of law or even military tribunal, and no official explanation had since been given for his execution.

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“ God will protect and pursue you into Great ambitions in your life

By: lawrence


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However, there was the strong suspicion that it was part of the witch-hunting exercise embarked upon by the leadership of the PNDC.

Rawlings' chilling confession may now give his family the respite, as regards the sin of the once revered jujuman.

Dozens of vehicles and properties registered in Yeye Boy's name were looted, while several of his relatives and children were forced to go into hiding, after his sadistic murder.

Unofficial sources suggested human ritual, but his execution was not announced, as were the cases of the generals.

In the wake of the National Reconciliation Commission (NRC) two years ago, the children of Yeye Boy petitioned the commission and after thorough investigations, the committee recommended reparation and apology for his death.

Volume 1 (Chapter 8, part 5) of the report stated: "An apology is owed to the families of all those who were killed, as well as those who have disappeared and whose whereabouts, to date, are unknown."

Volume One (7.4.3.3) also recommended that "Loss of life resulting from human rights violation-killings, disappearances, etc. gets a reparation of ¢20m-¢30m."

Torgbui Akakpovi Ahiaku was the 111th person on the reparation list and his family is to be given ¢20m. Hundreds of fetish priests, traditional rulers, students and soldiers were murdered in similar manner, a number of whom were suspected of committing crimes as minor as indebtedness.

Yeye Boy's execution was one of the most chilling stories heard by the Justice Amoah-Sekyi-led NRC.

The Commission was informed by a certain Mathias Kudzo, who was at the time of the murder, a soldier with the Ho Mortar Regiment and a close Rawlings confidante, that he was part of the team that raided Yeye Boy's location after an order for the action was received from Accra.

The jujuman was rumoured to have been a voodoo consultant for Rawlings in the heady days of the revolution, but attracted his wrath when he was reported to have asked for the clothing of the junta leader.

As Bombardier Mathias Kodzo related, when a close friend of Rawlings heard about the request which he (Yeye Boy) had made, it was believed that he drew the attention of the junta leader to a rumour that the late General E.W.K. Kotoka, one of the architects of the 24th February 1966, had obliged to a similar request by the jujuman and paid dearly for it.

On hearing this, the NRC was told, Rawlings grew furious and allegedly ordered, "Go and bring the bastard", whereupon his "hounds" charged on Yeye Boy, seized him and eventually subjected him to a gory death.

In fact, the whole of Atidzive suffered the wrath of the soldiers, who descended on the village to carry out the orders. Bombardier Kodzo, now a man of God, showed visible remorse for having taken part in that operation, when he took his turn before the NRC.

That was the closest Ghanaians got to knowing what had happened to Yeye Boy, whose abduction and subsequent death, like many others in the course of the so-called revolution, was shrouded in mystery.

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**Nana Boachie | 10/13/2015 4:03:00 PM**

The end time of the PNDC leader, Flt. Lt. John Jerry Rawlings. There is no hidden truth, he is bound to say or confess more atrocities. This is just the beginning.

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**KUSUM | 10/30/2015 10:21:00 AM**

LET HIS JOIN CHARLES TAYLOR IN THE HAGUE

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**YY | 11/16/2015 12:32:00 AM**

By this confession there is no doubt Rawlings equally spear headed the numerous killings including the three High Court judges and a soldier. He must taken to court to answer more questions on the people the lost during his time as a military leader

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**OBETSEBI | 11/16/2015 12:44:00 PM**

THIS basta\*d DJATO, SENT HIS MURDER SQUARD TO GO AND BRING "YEYE BOY"WHOM HE CALLED basta\*d,APPARENTLY FORGOTTEN THAT,HE HIMSELF WAS A basta\*d. YOU WILL SURELY VOMIT AND ANSWER FOR THE NUMEROUS BLOOD YOU HAVE TAKEN.YOUR DAYS ARE NUMBERED AND WHEN THE TIME COMES THE WHOLE GHANA WILL SEE YOUR PITIFUL END.

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**WAHALA | 11/20/2015 1:32:00 AM**

HMMM THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE END

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**PASHEW TUMATUMA-USA | 11/24/2015 1:22:00 AM**

May God "protect" JJ as he "protected" all the three judges and uncountable innocent people he sent to their graves or burnt them. Is the International Court of Justice or the Criminal Courts reading such confessions? Does one atrocity differ from others to warrant appearance in Hague? May the powers that be hurry to Ghana for this "smart" man of Rawlings. God is not a human being, someone tell JJ...and his family were educated with looted Ghanaian resources. We are not f\*\*ls. Boomerang effect soon. Watch out..God is activating his anger gradually.

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**Christo - ne | 11/26/2015 9:45:00 AM**

Both Rawlings and Yeye Boy would be judged by God who has the final say. I learnt of Yeye Boy as a child way back in the North. It was alleged that the fetish man carried trucks load of passengers from the North with the pretense that he was sending them 'down south' but they ended up in ritual rooms in the VR! Oh, pity! Yeye Boy was a common name in the North! Those who kill by the sword will die by the sword as the going says. Human beings are no animals for juju rituals. You who glorify murderers and protect them, woe unto you! Has Rawlings done bad for killing the murderer at Bibiani for beheading an innocent child for rituals? You do not know how it's to be beheaded!

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**asibi | 11/26/2015 10:03:00 AM**

WE SHALL RESIST WHOEVER WOULD WANT TO HARASS RAWLINGS FOR KILLING PANYARERS, RITUAL KILLERS. VODOOISTS, HUMAN ABUSERS, BECAUSE THEY ARE THEIR RELATIVES, SONS AND DAUGHTERS, OR BENEFICIARIES. YOU WHO ARE DEFENDING THE WICKED WILL YOU NOT BE JUDGED? Ghana is bleeding because of the absence of RAWLINGSES!!!

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**sly | 12/9/2015 1:38:00 PM**

as kids we also heard the truck loads of people who ended in yeye boys shrine but it seems you have twisted matters by introducing the northern equations. his commercial vehicles were not running from north to volta. they were running within volta region orat most from greater accra to volta. as a boy i have seen some of those vehicles plying the ho aflao road. in front the inscription was yeye boy; behind the inscription was commander then on the side he say people envy me because of my money. bedford, mini buses, benz buses 33 seater.

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**Alex | 12/2/2015 5:14:00 PM**

what kind of bullsh\*tstory is this?

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**garbage | 12/7/2015 11:30:00 PM**

Only ignorant people will believe this story, it is not news, it is a story

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**sly | 12/9/2015 1:40:00 PM**

the writer was economical on the kotoka twist. if he had mentioned the role general afrifa played in there i would have

given him thumps up.

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